

Hydrophobic, oil-absorbing polymeric compositions, prepared from high levels of hydrophobic monomers, are provided for transferring oily substances and hydrophobic materials to and from various surfaces in a heterogeneous medium. A reversible process is described for transferring oily substances and hydrophobic materials to and from various surfaces in a heterogeneous medium using oil-absorbing films, solid particles or dispersions of aqueous emulsion polymers prepared from hydrophobic monomers.